

## Who Knows What to Believe?

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The world is filled with many different beliefs, religions, philosophies, and ideologies. They are nearly 4,000 recognized faiths around the globe, and among these they are separate factions and sects. So, WHO KNOWS WHAT TO BELIEVE?

Among these religions, five are dominant: Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Over 15.5% of the world's population identify as secular, non-religious, agnostic, or atheist.

Christianity is the most ascribed to religion by 31% of the world's population. They are more than 45,000 Christian denominations globally and more than 200 in the U.S.

In light of these facts, it is no wonder that so many don't know what to believe.

There is hope, and they are answers to those who seek to know God.

*“You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.” - Jeremiah 29:13*

Out of all the beliefs, religions, philosophies, and ideologies, there is a truth which can't be squelched. That truth is a man named Jesus who was declared to be the Christ by the many miracles He performed, by His healing power over sickness and disease, His authority over evil spirits, His power over the forces of nature, and ultimately by His resurrection from the grave.

John 1:5 (The Living Bible, Paraphrased)

*His life is the light that shines through the darkness—and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

This darkness is spiritual blindness which keeps man from knowing God. Therefore, God sent His Son into the world to make Himself known to man and to reconcile man to Himself.

Without His light there is only darkness and in the darkness WHO KNOWS WHAT TO BELIEVE?

Acts 17 – Paul in Athens. In Athens, there was a lot of beliefs, religions, and philosophies, but they were no certainties.

Athens was home to some of history's great intellects, such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, and Zeno.

(Verses 18-21) There, Paul was engaged by Epicureans, Stoics, and philosophers who called him a babbler who was preaching about a foreign God because He was preaching about the resurrected Christ.

They summoned him to a place called Areopagus.

The Areopagus was both a court and a hill, due to the fact that the court traditionally met on that hill. The term Areopagus means hill of Ares. Ares was the Greek god of war. The Roman equivalent god was Mars, hence the KJV “Mars' hill”.

The Athenians loved to debate and argue religion and philosophy; everyone believing their way was right while accommodating all other beliefs as well – idols were everywhere throughout the city.

There was one monument of particular interest to Paul. There was one with the inscription, “To the unknown God.” It was this the god which they worshipped but did not know.

Sadly, many worship today, yet they don't know the God they worship.

Paul would assert that man doesn't get to create his own God nor his own truth.

**Read Acts 17:24-31.**

There is only one truth, and every man will be judged in righteousness by this truth, Jesus Christ.

God gave the world certainty in Jesus Christ raising Him from the dead!

Acts 17:27 ...that they would seek God, if perhaps they might **grope for Him** (reach for Him; touch Him; and feel Him) and find Him, though **He is not far from each one of us** (His presence everywhere through the Holy Spirit).

Getting to know God: Romans 10:8-13